

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review -
Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules
and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996,
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,
MM Docket No. 02-277, (rel. Sept. 23, 2002)

To: The Secretary, FCC Commissioners, and Chief, Media Bureau

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277,
The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules.
In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in
today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain
all of the current media ownership rules now in question.
These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power
of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately
demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and
consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be
indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of
views presented have become more limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current
events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation.
Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse
marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge,
our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety
of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media
ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition, I support the FCC's plan to hold a public hearing on
this matter in Richmond, VA in February 2003. I strongly encourage
the Commission to hold similar hearings in all parts of the country
and solicit the widest possible participation from the public which
will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these
decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only
consider the points of view of those with a financial interest
in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our
democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to
review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people
to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

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